Montana State Library



MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Pivision of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Albert F. Root, Commissioner

Chadwick H. Smith, Chairman Mitchell Building - P. O. Box 1728 - Helena, Montana Paul R. McClure, Commissioner

FL. 193.

difference 4

MARCH, 1959

In Industrial Employment

While total number of wage earners in Montana's non-agricultural industries was down seasonally by 2,000 from January to February, it rose 1,200 above the figure for February, 1958, according to estimates by the Commission in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The February employment figure is given at 150,200, a year ago it was 149,000, and in February, 1957. it was 157,800.

Employment Estimates Revised

Once a year employment estimates, based on samples and reported monthly in this publication, are adjusted to conform to the actual employment figures reported by employers covered by the Montana Unemployment Compensation Law. Revised estimates for 1958 are included in a supplement to this month's issue of the "Montana Labor Market." The figures used are based upon a recent revision of the series for the year 1958, using a March, 1958, benchmark and makes use of the most current and accurate information available concerning employment in Montana. In the new series, started in January, 1958, some changes have been made in the assignment of some industries to the various employment subcategories. The changes were made on a national scale as part of a program of improving statistical reporting. Those who regularly use the employment statistics are cautioned that the changes in industrial coding and the government benchmark somewhat limit the comparabiliity of the employment detail between 1957 and 1958 and between these years and the previous years.

Upward Trend Continues FEBRUARY SURPLUS OF JOBSEEKERS IS 22,000 AS SEASONAL LAY-OFFS REACH PEAK LEVEL

Following traditional seasonal patterns peculiar to the Montana economy, numerical upsurge of February jobseekers brought the total to 21,802 at the end of the month. New job applicants during February were 3,855 as continuing layoffs, shutdowns, and force reductions occurred in outdoor activities vulnerable to weather conditions. Most of the new applications were from the fields of construction, lumbering and logging, oil field work and other outdoor endeavors. As the month ended and the weather moderated, many of the idled workers were recalled to employment. Employment growth in the lumbering and logging of the little workers were recalled to employment. bering and logging industry may be temporarily slowed the next six weeks due to soft access roads and fixed load limits. Future prospects, however, are good and employment expansion in this industry during the coming season could well surpass purely seasonal trends. Barring unforseen circumstances, the statewide seasonal upturn should begin at the end of March and employment totals rise rapidly through the spring and summer months.

	Work	-Applicant	Count i	n Review			
	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
January	20,350	21,533	14,792	12,676	12,887	12,270	10,616
February	21,802	23,750	16,695	13,061	12,304	12,455	10,995
March	18,900*	23,394	14,930	12,663	11,979	11,075	9,323
May		15,233	9,032	5,105	5,565	6,191	4.324
July		11,784	6,419	3,807	4,628	4.283	3,249
September		8,065	6,328	2,889	2,781	3,782	2,288
November		13,013	12,564	6,453	6,968	5,617	5,048

*Estimated

Four Industries Ahead of Last Year

Four major industrial groups showed gains in employment totals over last year. Principal increases were in government, up 1,400 contract construction, up 1,300, and all mining, up 700. Finance, insurance and real estate was 100 above last year. Employment advances in these groups were sufficient to outweigh losses in manufacturing, down 400, transportation and utilities, down 900, trade, down 700, and service industries, down 300. In the total mining group metal mining is up 500 over last February, but still 3,200

short of the February, 1957, employment total for this industry. Employment totals have improved and unemployment has declined, but the supply of labor is continuing to exceed demand by a substantial amount. Improvement in production techniques and economies forced on employers during the recent recession appear to enable firms to produce substantial increases in output of goods and services without a corresponding increase in the need for labor. Industrial output has expanded faster than the demand for labor, with material changes in the existing pattern of job opportunities.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

		ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
		Total			New Hire		Total			Quit			Layoff			
INDUSTRY	Jan. 1959	Dec. 1958	Jan. 1958	Jan. 1959	Dec. 1958	Jan. 1958	Jan. 1959	Dec. 1958	Jan. 1958	Jan. 1959	Dec. 1958		Jan. 1959	Dec. 1958	Jan. 1958	
†All Manufacturing Durable Goods	2.7 3.3	1.8	1.5 2.1	1.5 1.6	1.2	0.6	2.8 3.3	3.7 4.9	2.3 2.9	1.1	1.4	0.5 0.6	1.1 1.5	1.5	1.4 2.0	
Primary Metal Nondurable Goods	2,2	1.1 1.3	2.1 0.6	0.1 1.3	0.1	0.4 0.5	1.7 2.0	2,4	1.2	0.5	1.8	0.3 0.4	0.3 0.4	0.4 0.7	0.5 0.4	
All Mining Metal Mining	6.0 5.2	4.2 4.6	1.2 1.1	1.5 0.2	1.2 0,3	0.6 0.1	3.8 4.2	4.9 3.0	3.5 4.2	2.1 2.8	1.7 1.7	1.7 1.9	1.0 0.6	2.1	1.0 1.5	

1959 rates are not strictly comparable with 1958 rates due to changes in report form on which basic data are obtained. Total separations include discharges and misc, separations. †Excludes canning and sugar industries.



Along the Hiring Line-Field Summary, Mar. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg— (468 jobseckers, 144 new; 348 men, 138 women). Smelter employment fairly stable with periodic transfers from one plant department to another. Small mines in Philips-burg area reduced working forces during month. Construction activity on limited basis as weather permits. New hires reported at State Prison and two State Hospitals.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,079 job-seekers, 643 new, 2,149 men, 930 women). Intermittent work on bridge and overpass construction on major highways kept 30 men employed. Road work suspended during month. Backlog of building construction awaits clearing weather, including new structures and remodeling of downtown stores. Fifty new homes under construction, with 65 more slated for early spring schedule. Trade and service industries in good volume after holiday season. Railroad hiring nil, with no extra gangs expected until April or May. Farm labor demands show mild increase, with surplus of applicants in area.

BOZEMAN, Enniys, Three Forks, Tirdent—(825 jobscekers, 173 new; 632 men, 193 women). Deep snow temporarily suspended some lumber and logging operations with reduced activity at local sawmills. Building program at Montana State College progresses on interior finish and decorating work. Road construction expected to reopen latter part of month. Upswing noted in agricultural hiring as weather moderated.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,968 jobseekers, 297 new; 1,431 men, 537 women). No sngnificant changes in metal mining picture as underground and pit mining on fairly stable basis. Open pit zine mining clouded by right-of-way dispute, possibly affecting 80 workers. Trade and service industries slow in recovering. Projected construction projects should employ bulk of idled construction workers within the near future. Ample labor supply in area.

CUT BANK-(570 jobseekers, 78 new. 440 men, 130 women). Labor market picture remains unchanged from past month. Some lay-offs of sales personnel and service workers in trade and service industries as business volume lessened. Winter feeding and sheep tagging main agricultural activi-

DILLON-(240 jobseekers, 74 new; 164 men, 76 women). Completion of new Safeway store building expected 4-15.59. Other construction slow and limited to interior painting and finish work. Twenty-four em-ployed in potato cellars with activity to continue until April 1. Trade and service indus-

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	Feb. 1959	Jan. 1959	Feb. 1958	Feb. Ave. 1950-58
Industrial Employment New Joh Applicants	150,200 3,855	152,200 4,655	149,000 4,428	145,600
Job Applicants, End of Month	21,802	20,350	23,750	14,508
Insured Unemployment, Week of	Mar. 6 1959	Feb. 6 1959	Mar. 7 1958	Avg. 1st Mar, Wk. 1955-59
New and Renewal Claims Unemployed Weeks Filed Total Unemployment Claims	1,363 15,144 16,477	1,632 14,783 16,415	1,426 18,953 20,379	1,110 13,094 14,204

tries at season's low ebb. Calving and lambing started and will extend 90 days. Labor supply in balance.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim— (991 jobseckers; 142 new, 828 men, 163 women). Major air base contractor plans general hiring latter part of month with gravel stockpiling first activity, using crushermen and heavy equipment operators. Housing contract for 460 units awarded, but no starting date given. Progress on water line from Missouri River to air base slow because of weather. Minimum crew employed on Fort Peck powerhouse project. Farm hiring

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(322 jobseekers; 79 new, 277 men, 45 women). Winter weather suspended most construction, oil field work, and other outside activities. Commercial and residential construction on intermittent basis as weather allows. Trade and service volume weakened during storm periods with mild reovery. Farm hiring slow with exception of livestock feeders

GREAT FALLS, Chuteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,575 jobscekers; 449 new, 1,995 men, 620 women). Weather caused suspension of construction and other outdoor activities but no mass lay-offs occurred. Heavier than usual demand for construction workers predicted as weather warms. Some temporary lay-offs in service industries as cafes closed for remodeling, clean-up and repairs. Farm hiring up as supplemental feeding of livestock increased during storm periods. Sheep tagging operations delayed in remote areas where travel difficult. Area job prospects look bright with approach of spring.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(598 jobseekers; 52 new, 475 men, 123 women). Industry lay-offs chiefly in logging as operations hampered by deep snow. Good stock pile of logs allowed mills to continue with little interruption. All construction activity re-tarded by weather. Start of lambing and potato sorting main agricultural activities.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem-(712 jobseekers, 146 new, 521 men, 191 women). Future area employment outlook bright both in industry and agriculture. Construction projects include new telephone building, armory, two

churches and smaller units. Trade and service building toward higher volume end of March. Sheep tagging in full swing; calving and lambing to start March 15, and field work on grain farms about April 1.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(1,274 jobseekers. 230 new, 1,015 men, 259 women). Most February lay-offs in lumber and heavy construction industries caused by weather conditions. Trade and service industries had good volume, influenced by influx during legislative session. Gradual reduction of force at East Helena smelter, with last lay-off affecting 11 workers. Worker demand exceeded supply in clerical and sales occupations. Farm labor demand improving as spring work season approaches.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(2,160 jobseekers, 302 new. 1,762 men, 398 women). Non-agricultural employment up from last year due to expanded activity in lumbering and logging, ice harvest, and service units. Retail trade made good showing following holiday business. Contract construction dormant but pick-up expected as weather warms. Spring thaws and soft logging roads could adversely affect employment totals next thirty days. Labor supply in area sufficient to meet anticipated future needs.

LEWISTOWN, Harluwton, Ryegate, Winnett-(458 jobseekers, 69 new. 364 men, 94 women). Twenty service workers idled as fire destroyed another major hotel, the sec-ond within several years. Plans made for building new structure. Completion of major highway bridge, radar station facilities, and lay-offs at brick and tile yard added to jobseeker file. Livestock feeding and start of calving were major farm activities.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(587 job seekers, 123 new, 384 men, 203 women). Lumber industry in area active with full winter crews at most mills. Force expansion and double shifts foreseen next 30 days. Contract construction at seasonal low with only minimum work forces. New super market scheduled for construction when weather permits. Railroad hiring slow, but expected to increase within coming months.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149,4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	. 140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2
1954	146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	158,2	155.7	155.0
1955	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	168.2	170.4	169.8	165.9	162.4	160.3	159.8
1956	154 3	152.1	154.2	160.7	167.0	175.0	175.7	177.5	176.9	173.6	167.9	165.2	166.7
1957	159.0	157.8	158.6	163.0	168.6	174.8	176.9	176.8	175.2	170.0	165.4	161.1	167.3
1958	154.6	151.4	1517	157.4	163.5	169.6	170.4	171.8	170.8	168.2	163.3	157.8	162.5
1959	152.2	150.2*											

^{*}Preliminary estimate.

Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary, Mar. 1

(Continued from page Two)

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Forsyth, Jordan, Terry—(676 jobseekers, 146 new, 546 men, 130 women). Normal labor market conditions prevailed despite severe weather. Two oil drilling rigs active near Miles City and Broadus. Main street business down moderately due to weather. Some job applicants leaving area for employment in other states. No immediate labor shortages seen in area.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,735 jobseekers, 307 new, 1,244 men, 491 women). Logging and lumbering, although limited during storm periods, remained active with exception of higher mountain areas. Construction slow, but prospects bright for season with anticipated building of fire control research lab, new church, school, university building expansion, residential units, and super motel. Trade and service industries at normal seasonal low. Agriculture restricted to livestock feeding.

POLSON—(525 jobseekers, 67 new, 438 men, 87 women). Lumbering and logging held stronger than usual during winter season, but spring break-up and road limits may cause some temporary curtailment of woods crews and truckers. One new sawmill in operation, another under construction and scheduled for operation May 1. Labor market more active than last year, with good prospects for 1959.

SHELBY, Chester, Conrad—(447 jobseekers, 78 new, 328 men, 119 women). Weather conditions restricted construction to minor inside repair jobs; future outlook in this field optimistic. Condemnation proceedings on right-of-way for cloverleaf highway interchange scheduled this month. Oil exploration and development affected by weather and market conditions. Three sheep tagging and shearing crews in area.

SIDNEY—(443 jobseekers, 101 new, 396 men, 47 women). Winter weather kept outdoor activities at low ebb; construction limited to inside carpentry work. Oil field activity restricted to reworking producing wells. Trade and service industries weakened by winter slowdown. Farm labor demands increasing, but adequate labor supply in area at present.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(498 jobseekers, 56 new, 421 men, 77 women). Noxon Rapids Dam employment fixed at 250 during month, with sporadic lay-offs and recalls as some units completed before others started. Main activity is at dam and powerhouse where installation work is underway. Concrete pouring on highway bridge on one to two day week basis as weather allows. Peak production at local sawmills. Some reduction of woods crews as weather worsened.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(633 jobseekers, 99 ncw, 530 men, 103 women). Force reductions in construction, oil fields, and trade industries added to the jobseeker files. Construction limited to inside work on residential and commercial units. No active oil drilling in area: one crew moved to North Dakota. Slump in trade and service idled cafe workers, bartenders, garage and farm implement personnel.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

(Compiled in co-operation with Office		PLOYME		Net C	hange
INDUSTRY	Feb. 1959 (2)	Jan. 1959 (3)	Feb. 1958	Jan. '59 to Feb. '59	Feb. '58 to Feb. '59
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.	150,200	152,200	149,000	2,000	1,200
Manufacturing	18,300	18,600	18,700	- 300	400
Durable goods	11,100	11,100	11,200	00	100
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	6,000 3,900 1,200	3,900	5,600 4,400 1,200	00	— 500
Nondurable goods	7,200	7,500	7,500	_ 300	— 300
Food and kindred products Printing and publishing Petroleum refining Other (5)	3,600 1,700 900 1,000	1,700 1,000	3,800 1,600 1,000 1,100		- 100 - 100
Mining	9,200 5,800 700 2,700	5,800 700	8,500 5,3 00 6 00 2,6 00	00	500 100
Contract Construction	7,700 2,100 2,400 3,200	2,700 2,400	6,400 2,100 1,500 2,800	— 600 00	900
Transportation and utilities Interstate railroads Transportation except railroads Utilities including communication	1 8,400 9,000 3,800 5,600	9,100 3,900	19,300 9,600 3,600 6,100	$\begin{bmatrix} - & 100 \\ - & 100 \end{bmatrix}$	-600 200
Trade Wholesale trade Retail trade General merchandise and apparel Food stores Eating and drinking establishments Automotive and filling stations Retail trade not elsewhere classified		7,800 28,100 5,700 4,400 6,500 5,900	36,300 7,900 28,400 5,200 4,300 6,500 6,100 6,300	- 100 - 200 - 200 00 00 00	- 200 - 500 300 100 - 200
Finance, insurance and real estate	5,800	5,700	5,700	100	100
Services and miscellaneous		2,100 2,200	19,900 2,300 2,000 15,600	[00]	200
Government Federal. State and local.	35,600 8,200 27,400	35,800 8,400 27,400	34,200 8,500 25,700	- 200 - 200 00	1,400 - 300 1,700
Great Falls Area (Cascade County) Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Services and miscellaneous (7) Government	17,900 2,900 1,200 2,100 5,000 3,900 2,800	18,200 2,900 1,400 2,100 5,100 3,900 2,800	17,800 2,700 1,200 2,300 5,100 3,800 2,700	- 300 00 - 200 00 - 100 00 00	100 200 00 - 200 - 100 100 100

- Estimates Include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
 Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 662 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,045 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and mlscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY, 1959 AND FEBRUARY, 1958

Employment	New Job Applicants Jobseekers in File						le	Job Placements								U. I. Claims		
Service	Feb.	1959	Feb.	1958	Feb.	1959	Feb.	1958		Feb.	1959	- 11		Feb.	1958		Wk.	3-6
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag. !	Tot.	Vet.	1959	1958
										1	1	1	1				*	
Anaconda	144	25	160	54	486	152	521	193		5	20	10,	7	5'	12	.3	440	1
Billings	643	170	556	191	3,079		2,694	1,055		48	285	120	220	45		114	2,134	
Bozeman	173	58	184	59	825	262		265		27	117	35	62	13	75	37	416	
Butte	297	811	611	200	1,968	585	2,585	892		2	73		28	14	42	9		
Cut Bank	78	32	98	38	570	226	562	237		83	118		10	52	62	1.3		
Dillon	74	27	86	36	240	107	350	125		36	56		17	3.3	50	18		
Glasgow	142	54	89	38	991	347	673	240		68	1.34	50	6.3	8	71	21		
Glendive	79	28	102	36	322	82	270	103	38,	14	5.2	21	40	17	57	35	239	
Great Falls.	449	156	499	136	2.575	851	2,978	1,028	161	114	275	69	154	112	266	68	1,918	2,25
Hamilton	52	11	68	16	598	192	651	196		11	28	12	12	7	19	5	424	
Havre	146	34	155	54	712	228	738	288		20	117			13	101	5.3	583	
Helena	230	77	290	112	1,274	485	1,230	496		6	187		55	4	59	29	902	
Kalispell	302	81	295	105	2,160	660	3,123	1.085	147	6	153	19	47	19	66'	21	2,013	2,92.
Lewistown	69	18	79.	21	458	162	430	155		18	45	21	15	8	23	9		
Livingston	123	23	861	33	587	159	603	226		5	38		23	_	23	7	477	600
Miles City	146	43	169	58'	676	206	692	276		25	68	22	21	11	32	19	529	54
Missoula	307	83	424	132	1,735	566	1,933	689		11	109	45	62	7	69	46	1,303	1,78
Polson	67	10	58	23	525	175	735	268		4]	34	16	1	5	6	1	486	
Shelby	78	27	99	28	447	163	538	200		126	173	23	47	133	180	32		
Sidney	101	29	168	48		136	413	134		14	32	12	8	2	10	4	378	
Thomp. Falls.	56	22'	781	25		158	650)	250		2	64	32	78	5	83	39		
Wolf Point	991	231	74	20	633	213	478	168	23	2	25	5	17	3	20	7	483	428
TOTALS	3,855]	1,112	4,428	1,463	21,802	7,109	23,750]	8,569	1,556	647	2,203	759	1,075	516	1,591	590	16,477	[]20,37!

^{*}Include 690 claims of the Federal Employees UC Program, 491 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly I	Carnings	Ауегая	ge Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings			
INDUSTRY	Feb. (1) 1959	Jan. (2) 1959	Feb. 1958	Feb. (1) 1959	Jan. (2) 1959	Feb. 1958	Feb. (1) 1959	Jan. (2) 1959	Feb. 1958	
All Manufacturing	\$94.56	\$95.11	\$85.56	39.9	40.3	37.2	\$2.37	\$2.36	\$2.30	
Durable goods Primary metals	92.04 94.56	92.90 92.19	85.35 90.46	39.5 39.9	39.7 38.9	37.6 39.5	2.33 2.37	2.34 2.37	2.27 2.29	
Nondurable goods Food and kindred products	100.12 90.46	99.42 91.76	85.98 72.96	41.2 43.7	41.6 45.2	36.9 38.4	2.43 2.07	2.39 2.03	2.33 1.90	
All Mining	100.85	100.25	98.98	40.5	40.1	40.4	2.49	2.50	2.45	
Metal mining	94.53	94.53	93.27	38.9	38.9	38.7	2.43	2.43	2.41	
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	94.18	93.38	90.16							
Transportation (except railroads) Utilities and communication	106.68 84.67	104.24 85.32	106.34	39.2	39.5	38,9	2.16	2.16	2.05	

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

MITCHELL BUILDING
P. O. Box 1728
HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Lucile Speer, Librarian Documents & Serials Montana State University Missoula, Montana EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
United States Postage
Accounted for Under
Act of Congress



CALL YOUR MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE WHEN YOU NEED QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED WORKERS!

Montana State Library